

NOTE

Predation on a Mouse by the Chinese Mantid
Tenodera aridifolia sinensis Saussure
(Dictyoptera: Mantoidea)

Observations of predation upon vertebrates by individual insects are uncommon, and most cases are of aquatic beetles (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae), water bugs (Hemiptera, Belostomatidae), and nymphal dragonflies (Odonata) preying upon tadpoles, frogs, and fish (Imms, A. D. 1960. A General Text Book of Entomology). Although Imms also mentions attacks by South American mantids feeding on birds, lizards, and frogs, most reports of mantids feeding on vertebrates are Australian records. Morse (1922, Emu 22: 74) described an attack by a mantid on a nestling bird, upon which it fed, and Nash (1962, Victorian Nat. 79: 11) described the attack and predation by the mantid, *Archimantis latistylus* (Serville), upon a golden bell frog, *Litoria aurea* (Lesson). Ridpath (1977, J. Aust. Entomol. Soc. 19: 153-154) documented several (and apparently regular) attacks by the large mantid, *Heirodula wernerii* (Giglio-Tos) on the green tree frog, *Litoria caerulea* (White). He also observed on two separate occasions the capture of a small bird, the brown honeycreeper, *Lichmera indistincta* (Vig. and Horsf.).

The Chinese mantid, *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis* Saussure, is one of the largest of mantids (73-103 mm) and probably powerful enough to subdue and feed upon small vertebrates. The only published account of this species feeding on a captured vertebrate, however, describes the feeding on a captured *Trionyx* soft-shelled turtle (Johnson, M. D. 1976, J. Kans. Entomol. Soc. 49: 164). Though demonstrating the mantid's ability to subdue heavy vertebrates, this observation was unnatural in that both the turtle and mantid were enclosed in a small terrarium-aquarium.

We document here the capture and feeding by the Chinese mantid on a mouse. The description is substantiated with Polaroid® color photographs now on file in the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, National Museum of Natural History, and which are unfortunately not of reproducible quality for publication.

The observation occurred in the afternoon in the garden of JH in early August, 1980. A small whitefooted deer mouse (probably a juvenile, body length 80-90 mm, weight 10-15 g), *Peromyscus leucopus* (Rafinesque), was observed running along the periphery of the garden. It had gone behind a thicket of zinnias, when distress sounds from the mouse were heard. One zinnia bush was noticeably in motion, alerting JH, who observed the mouse immobilized by the grasp of the mantid's forelegs behind the mouse's head. The mantid was hanging upside down by its mid- and hindlegs from the

plant, and the mouse was elevated above the ground so that its hindlegs were unable to touch ground. The forelegs of the mouse, though free, remained at the mouse's side.

The mantid began at once to feed on the living mouse, commencing at the nose, and systematically working towards the back of the head, eating hair, bones, and other tissue along the way. The nasal bones of the skull were exposed within five minutes of feeding, with considerable bleeding at the wound site. After ten minutes the mantid had fed to the area of the brain, the mouse shuddered and appeared dead from that moment. The mantid fed to the hindquarters ($t = 45$ min). Bones, hairs, and all other parts were consumed at least to this point, when observations were discontinued.

Although it is unlikely that mice or other vertebrates are a regular part of this mantid's diet, it is nevertheless possible for large mantids to supplement opportunistically their diets with small vertebrates.

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PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.
83(4), 1981, pp. 802-803

NOTE

Acleris maccana (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae): Distribution Notes and a New Record for Virginia

The tortricine moth, *Acleris maccana* (Treitschke) (also referred to as *Peronea fishiana* Fernald in North America), was described from Germany and has its primary distribution in Europe. It is not known whether the North American populations were introduced at some time in the past century or whether they have been on the North American continent much longer. Until recently, the collection records in the Nearctic were mainly from southern Canada, with intrusions into the United States in New England and Washington. In June 1976, I collected one male at the base of Mt. Rogers in western Virginia. This represents a considerable extension of the North American distribution of *A. maccana* into the southern Appalachian